Appl. No. 09/741,636 Amdt. Dated April 1, 2004 Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 1, lines 7-11 with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is related to a continuation-in-part of application serial number 09/689,367 filed on October 12, 2000, entitled "Method of Selecting Initialization Parameters for Multi-channel Data Communication with Forward Error Correction," by inventors Vlad Mitlin, Tim Murphy and Richard G.C. Williams, (Attorney Doc. No. 3Com 3329-1) which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph 1 on page 7, lines 9-13 with the following amended paragraph:

The modem 28 at the remote terminal 30 includes the same components as the modem 26 at the central office 24, and also includes an external interface 50—49 to connect to a computer system. The external interface 50—49 may be a PCI, internet, or USB interface. In an alternate embodiment, the modem 38 is internal to the computer system.